horti CULTURE

for the home gardener

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Junipers for Southern California

Because they have many virtues and few liabilities, junipers are one of the most popular plant groups for home and community landscaping. They are neat, attractive, evergreen, and durable. They also retain their shape as they age and require minimum upkeep.

Another reason for their popularity is their availability in so many different shapes and sizes. There are junipers that can be used as a low groundcover, as a lawn substitute, or as a plant cascading over a retaining wall. There are varieties that are ideal in low planters, effective as screens and dividers in parking lots, and excellent for foundation plantings.

Junipers tolerate most soil types, light or heavy, but do best where there is good drainage. Incorporating organic soil amendments such as peat moss or wood shavings prior to planting will be of benefit. Junipers thrive in full sun and can generally stand the temperature extremes of Southern Californa. They are resistant to insect pests and disease. Common pests found on junipers are aphids, which cause very little damage, and twig girdlers. Twig girdlers cause tips of branches to die and foliage to turn brown.

Though they keep their shape and need little pruning for most landscaping purposes, junipers will tolerate pruning and shearing in order to fit into some narrow or unusual location or some special landscaping plan. Because they can be shaped, junipers are frequently used in bonsai, the oriental art of miniaturizing plants. Some varieties of Juniperus chinensis used in this fashion are 'Torulosa', 'Foemina', and 'San Jose'. Other species that are also used in bonsai are Juniperus procumbens 'Nana', and Juniperus scopulorum.

For the apartment and condominium dweller, junipers adapt well in redwood, ceramic, concrete and other planters, and even in hanging baskets. Two species of juniper are particularly suited for containers. One of them is Juniperus chinensis and its varieties 'Mint Julep', 'Pfitzeriana', 'Robusta Green', and 'Torulosa'. The other species is Juniperus conferta and varieties of it which are 'Wiltonii', 'Bar Harbor', and 'Blue Pacific'.

Selecting the right juniper for a particular landscape situation has been difficult for many homeowners because nurseries generally have young, not fully formed plants growing in small containers. With this in mind, the Arboretum has created a juniper display where homeowners, horticulturists, landscape students and others can observe and study over 130 labeled specimens of all types in a landscaped setting.

Some of the more commonly available junipers are listed on the reverse side.

(over)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS · 301 North Baldwin Avenue · Arcadia · CA. 91006

GROUNDCOVER TYPE JUNIPERS

Low Spreaders:

Juniperus chinensis 'Sargentii Glauca'
" " 'Sargentii Viridis'
" horizontalis (variegated)
" " 'Emerald Spreader'
" " 'Emersons Creeper'
" " 'Hughes'
" " 'Jade Spreader'
" " 'Plumosa compacta'
" " 'Turquoise spreader'
" " 'Webberi'
" procumbens 'Nana'
" sabina 'Buffalo'
" " 'Scandia'
" virginiana prostrata

Low Trailers:

Juniperus conferta 'Blue Pacific'
" horizontalis 'Bar Harbor'
" " 'Wiltonii'

Mounding Spreaders:

Juniperus sabina 'Broadmoor'
" " 'Tamariscifolia'

Prostrate 2 to 3 feet tall:

Juniperus chinensis 'San Jose'
" procumbens 'Variegata'
" " 'Variegata Golden'
" squamata expansa 'Parsonii'

SHRUB-TYPE JUNIPERS

Semi-Upright Bushy:

Juniperus chinensis 'Armstrongii'
" " 'Aurea Gold Coast'
" " 'Fruitlandii'
" " 'Hetzii Glauca'
" " 'Maneyi'
" " 'Robusta Green'
" " 'Sea Green'

Semi-Upright Spreading:

Juniperus chinensis 'Mint Julep'
" " 'Pfitzeriana'
" " 'Pfitzeriana Aurea'
" " 'Pfitzeriana Glauca'
" sabina 'Arcadia'
" " 'Blue Danube'
" " 'Variegata'
" " 'Savin'
" scopulorum 'Table Top Blue'
" squamata 'Meyeri'

Informal Upright:

Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'
" " 'Torulosa Variegata'

Globe:

Juniperus scopulorum 'Lakewood Globe'

Tree:

Juniperus pachyphlaea

Pyramid:

Juniperus chinensis 'Ames'
" " 'Blue Point'
" " densaerecta 'Spartan'
" " 'Iowa'
" " 'Keteleeri'
" " 'Wintergreen'
" excelsa 'Stricta'
" scopulorum 'Blue Haven'
" " 'Chandler's Silver'
" " 'Cologreen'
" " 'Moffetii'
" " 'Pathfinder'
" " 'Platinum'
" " 'Erecta Glauca'
" " 'Steel Blue'
" " 'Witchita Blue'
" virginiana 'Cupressifolia'
" " 'Manhattan Blue'
" " 'Burkii'

Columnar:

Juniperus chinensis 'Columnaris Glauca'
" " 'Hetzii Columnaris'
" " 'Oblelisk'
" scopulorum 'Cupressifolia Erecta'
" " 'Gray Gleam'
" " 'Staver'
" " 'Welchii'
" virginiana 'Sky Rocket'

Vases:

Juniperus chinensis 'Blaauwi'
" " 'Blue Vase'